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Central Intelligence Agency

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(b)(3)



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 95-2351

14 September 1995

Mr. Mark Lowenthal  
Staff Director  
Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mark:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: Honduras

ISSUE: Update on the Death of U.S. Priest James Carney

Forwarded herewith is a background paper on two uncorroborated reports relating to the death of Father James Carney 12 years ago. This paper is provided in an effort to keep the Committees updated on any new information regarding the case. One report [redacted]

[redacted] Father Carney was killed during the encounter between the military and the insurgent group. The second report was provided by the insurgents who were with Carney when he was captured. A full report on the review of CIA activities in Honduras, generated by the recent Baltimore Sun series, will be briefed to the Committee when completed. [redacted]

If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to call. [redacted]

Sincerely,

[redacted]  
Joanne O. Isham  
Director of Congressional Affairs

37b

Enclosure

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  DATE:  
29-Jun-2010

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D264-1

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION Regarding Update on the Death  
of U.S. Priest James Carney

DCI/OCA/

(06 Sep 95)

OCA 95-2351/1-5

Distribution:

Original - Mark Lowenthal, HPSCI (w/encl)  
Original - Michael W. Sheehy, HPSCI (w/encl)  
Original - Charles Battaglia, SSCI (w/encl)  
Original - Chris Straub, SSCI (w/encl)  
Original - The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, HAC/NS (w/encl)  
Original - The Honorable Ted Stevens, SAC/DEF (w/encl)  
1 - OCA Records (w/encl)  
1 - DCI/COS (w/encl)  
1 - EXDIR Staff/Oliver (w/encl)  
1 - Honduras Data Base (w/encl)  
1 - DO/LA (w/encl)  
1 - DI/ALA (w/encl)  
1 - D/OCA (w/o encl)  
1 - [redacted]  
1 - [redacted] Chrono (w/encl)  
1 - Notification File (w/encl)

D264.2

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29 August 1995

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Reporting on the Death of U.S. Priest James Carney

1. The following information is provided in an effort to keep the Committees updated on any new information on the case of Father Carney. A full report on the review of CIA activities in Honduras, generated by the recent Baltimore Sun series, will be briefed to the Committees when completed.

2. We recently received uncorroborated information relating two additional accounts of Father Carney's death 12 years ago, that was highlighted in the Baltimore Sun series.

3. One report [redacted] claim Father Carney was killed during the encounter between the military and the insurgent group. One of these sources says Carney was buried at the site of the conflict.

4. According to the second report:

- Father Carney was tortured to death by the Honduran military, and his body dismembered. Pieces of the body were buried in various places near Palestina in the Rio Patuca area.
- Carney had been captured, along with a group of insurgents, as the result of information provided by farmers in the area bordering Nicaragua.
- The military had distributed photographs of Carney, and leader of the insurgent group Jose Maria Reyes Mata, to farmers with instruction that they report the presence of Carney or Reyes in Honduran territory.

5. According to [redacted] the second report, this account of Carney's death was provided by the insurgents who were with Carney when he was captured. It is not clear whether these insurgents witnessed his death or simply heard about it.

[redacted] this version has not been heard previously, and we have no information to

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SUBJECT:

substantiate it.

[redacted] The assessment of the  
DI's Office of African and Latin American Analysis is that this  
is the least credible version of Father Carney's death, given its  
sourcing and lack of corroboration.

6. Other accounts indicate Father Carney died of starvation  
while traveling with the guerrillas or that he was captured and  
thrown from a helicopter by Honduran military personnel. We have  
been unable to substantiate definitively or rule out any of these  
accounts.

D264-4

TO	D/OCA via COS via	DD/OCA	CONTROL # OCA 95-2351/1-5	DATE OF REQUEST 6 Sep 95
FROM	DCI/OCA/ [redacted]	via DCI/OCA/DD/ [redacted]	SUSPENSE DATE	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATIONS to Lowenthal and Sheehy, HPSCI; Battaglia and Straub, SSCI; Chairman Young, HAC/NS; and Chairman Stevens, SAC/DEF				
re: Reporting on the Death of U.S. Priest James Carney				

NOTES

*Subject for below  
J.*

## COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices)

NAME	[redacted]	OFFICE	DATE
NAME	[redacted]	OFFICE	DATE 29 Aug 95
NAME	[redacted]	OFFICE	DATE 30 Aug 95
NAME	EXDIR	OFFICE	DATE 31 Aug 95
NAME	[redacted]	OFFICE	DATE

## ACTION REQUIRED BY D/OCA

*I agree with this notification but am  
Review and Signature on Letters  
Wondering if we should notify other Members  
who have asked ?? about this matter  
Who else has signed? Sullivans?*

~~SECRET (When Filled In)~~

**Congressional  
Action**

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION: Reporting on the Death of U.S. Priest James Carney**

FROM:		EXTENSION	DATE SENT	REQUEST NUMBER
			29 Aug 95	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)		DATE	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after comment.)
		RECEIVED      FORWARDED		
1.		8/30	8/30	Notification #177
2.				Returned for inclusion of additional information per request of EXDIR.
3.	EXDIR	31	MW	Attached notification may be provided to the staffers of the four Oversight Committees.
4.				
5.	OCA Attn: <input type="text"/>	5/IX	MH	
6.		05/09	06/09	fw
7.	D/OCA			
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
RETURN TO:				

*Recd. 11-9-95 - DC*

*D 264-6*

FORM 4283  
8-87

~~SECRET (When Filled In)~~

**Congressional  
Action**

**Priority Handling**